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West Virginia LIBRARIES

Vol. 61 • No. 5

www.wvla.org

SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

September 2008

Best Small Library in America Award Nomination Guidelines

Postmark deadline: November 3, 2008

"*Library Journal's*" annual award for the Best Small Library in America, cosponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was founded to encourage and showcase the exemplary work of these libraries. Now in its fifth year, the award honors the public library that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less (see below for eligibility).

The winning library will receive a \$15,000 cash award, a feature story in the February 1, 2009, "*Library Journal*", membership and conference costs for two library representatives to attend the Public Library Association Biennial Conference in 2010 in Portland, OR,

and a gala reception at the conference. Starting with the 2009 award year, two finalist libraries will be awarded with membership and conference costs for two library representatives to attend the PLA conference and the gala reception in 2010, and they will be given special mention in "*Library Journal*."

Members of the editorial board of "*Library Journal*", librarians from around the country, and a representative from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will judge nominations based on key factors, including:

- Creativity in developing services and programs that can be replicated by other libraries, including outreach to special populations
- Innovation in introducing and supporting public access computing
- Success in educating patrons in computer use, and measuring the results of technology usage
- Use of technology to expand the reach of library services
- Demonstrated community support
- Sustained cooperation with other libraries
- Partnerships with other agencies and businesses
- Increase in library use, particularly by new users
- Evidence of library's role as community center

Keeping the factors above in mind,

Mark December
3-5 on your
calendars!

Enjoyment of all the amenities of Greenbrier County and the Resort. Education on the latest in library trends and services. Entertainment from Bunkers to Bowling. Join your colleagues for WVLA's conference.

please tell us how, in the last two years, you have raised the profile of the library in your community, reached out to new users and remote users, and used technology to support and grow patron access to materials and information. Please also describe the use of public access computers (PACs) in your library and how you anticipate sustaining PACs and adapting to the next generation of users. In your description of your collaborations with others, please give examples of how the library has become a model for the partnering organization and how the organization has become a model for the library. Please highlight innovative approaches to traditional problems, including seemingly small fixes that work.

Submission Requirements:

Anyone can nominate a library—the library administration itself, patrons, members of the community, library peers, etc.

There is no entry fee, but each entry must include the following information:

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A Message from the President

Fall is finally here, school is in session, and we finally have a welcomed respite from the summer heat. What this all means is... Annual Conference will be here before we know it – December 3-5 at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs!

The deadline for program proposal submissions has passed and we are now busily preparing the Conference program schedule. A full program schedule will be available on the WVLA website in October, and will be listed in the November newsletter. Attendees will be able to choose among wonderful programs relevant for school, public, and academic librarians, and excellent programming of interest to library trustees will be offered as well.

Activities being planned by the Conference Committee include a bowling tournament, a silent auction, and a reception at the White Sulphur Springs Public Library. Be sure and pack comfortable shoes for bunker tours of The Greenbrier and side trips to historic Lewisburg!

The WV Center for the Book has selected "Big Stone Gap" for the 2008 One Book, One West Virginia Read program and we will also use this book for our One Book, One Conference read. "Big Stone Gap," written by Adriana Trigiani, is the first of four novels placed in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, a small coal-mining town where the author grew up. WVLA members are sure to find "Big Stone Gap" an enjoyable book to discuss, while also preparing librarians to provide a common reading experience which places the library as a major player in their communities' cultural life.

Stay tuned for detailed Conference information online and in the November issue...

Barbara

Nominations —continued from page 1

1) Name, address, phone number, and email of nominee and the name of the contact person, as well as contact information for the submitter if different from the nominee.

2) A written explanation of up to two pages (or a list of bulleted narrative points) that clearly enumerates how the library's accomplishments fit the criteria for the award listed above. (Note: Entries that describe programs and their effects on the community will be especially helpful to the judges in rendering a decision. Supporting materials, such as brochures, testimonials, press clippings, etc., may be included and are helpful, but they are less important than the written narrative.)

3) Photo(s) of library, staff, and patrons, if possible.

4) Letters of reference from two library peers. (A library peer is someone who is knowledgeable about libraries in

general and knows the nominated library well, but who is not employed by the library in any capacity. Examples include librarians at neighboring libraries or colleagues at the state association or the state library.)

5) Statistical data. On a separate sheet of paper please supply the following information:

- Population served
- Total annual budget (if you are part of another body of government, note if you pay utility bills, IT, etc.)
- Per capita budget
- Circulation
- Materials budget (including electronic databases)
- Physical visits (door count)
- Virtual visits (e-use, if collecting this data)
- Number of public access computers per population served
- Number of days and hours of

service per week

- Number of staff
- Percentage of staff who are professional librarians.

Most libraries collect this data, but if you do not have all of these statistics, then submit those the library does have. Also, please detail whether the nominated library is a member of a consortium/county-wide service district—what services are provided by it (technology support, training, databases, etc.), what role does the library play in it? The judges do not make selections based on numbers, though they are helpful in giving context to the written submission.

Eligibility Requirements:

1) A single library serving a community with a population of 25,000 or less is eligible (latest Census).

2) Area library districts or systems may serve an aggregate population

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WV Author Marc Harshman Highlight of Summer Refresher for School Librarians

Wheeling-based children's author, Marc Harshman, spoke about the "story table" as part of WVLA's School Library Division's Summer Refresher at Fairmont State University on July 16. Recalling his youth where generations of his extended family sat around the kitchen table and shared family histories and stories, he encouraged school librarians consider libraries the modern equivalent. Young people should use literature to create communities and exchange stories for entertainment and to pass on common values.

Thirty-five school librarians from across the state participated in this event. Heather Heck, Wayne County High School Library, presented a session on Building a Virtual School Library and the West Virginia Library Commission's Karen Goff spoke about the Letters about Literature program that has excited many young people to read books and communicate with authors about their reading experience.

The data collected by Cathy Davis about the current state of school libraries in West Virginia was of great interest to those attending. She found that there is an average of 778 students to each school librarian in West Virginia and that 50% of counties do not have even one elementary librarian. This means that over 48,000 elementary students have no librarian. On the other hand, 88% of secondary schools have at least a half-time librarian. Ways to encourage support school libraries in every school were discussed.

Mr. Harshman, a former teacher, has just been awarded the West Virginia Arts Council's Fellowship in Children's Literature for 2008. He has received numerous other awards and favorable reviews for his works. Harshman used his books, such as *Only One* (Dutton Children's Books, 1993) and *Only One Neighborhood* (Dutton Children's Books, 2007) to model storytelling. Following his presentation he signed copies of his books.

The Summer Refresher is offered annually by the School Library Division and this year was coordinated by co-chairs Karen Figgatt and Celene Seymour.

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WVLA's Web site: www.wvla.org

September is West Virginia Literacy Month

by Susan Hayden
Adult Services Consultant, WVLC

September 8th is celebrated throughout the world as International Literacy Day. As part of this celebration, the West Virginia Library Commission and the Governor's office proclaim September of each year as West Virginia Literacy Month.

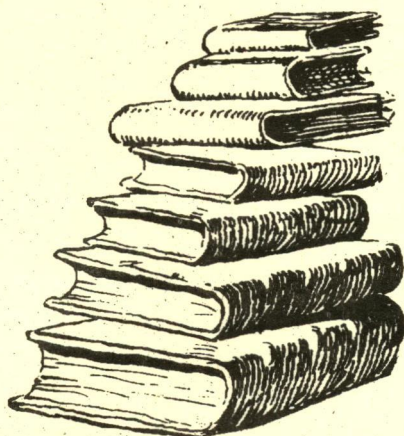
As part of the West Virginia celebration is the design, production and distribution of the September is Literacy Month poster. KEEP UP AND KEEP OUT is the theme for the 2008 West Virginia Literacy Month poster.

In West Virginia, 15% to 30% of the adult population in 53 counties cannot read beyond a fourth grade level; in two counties more than 30% of the population cannot read above a fourth grade level. This means over 350,000 West Virginians cannot understand newspaper stories or cannot assist their children with school work.

Literacy means more than reading and writing; it includes an individual's ability to speak and understand English and use math. Part of being a literate citizen is the use of public libraries, including checking out materials, using the library as a learning center, attending programs at the library, bringing their children to library programs, and taking advantage of the informational resources found only at the

public library.

Research shows that education is one of the most effective forms of crime prevention.



Successful educational experiences are the best predictors of a lack of arrest for delinquency, (*Trading Textbooks for Prison Cells* by William J. Chambliss). Today's tough economic times and high unemployment rates place those without reading skills in danger of not keeping up and being put in jail.

In fact, officials from many states have found they can use the rate of illiteracy to help calculate future prison needs. Evidence shows that children who do not read by third grade often fail to catch up and are more likely to drop out of school, take drugs and go to prison, (*The Los Angeles Times* and *Every Person a Reader* by Stephen D. Krashen).

—continued on page 5

Nominations —continued from page 2

of greater than 25,000, as long as the service area of the library includes an area or a community with a population of 25,000 or less. The prize money must be used to benefit that population.

3) A single county or town with a population over 25,000 that is served by two or more library districts or systems operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given library includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the library's jurisdiction is 25,000 or less. The prize money must be used for that area.

4) A single community with a population greater than 25,000 and having a library with one or more branches may qualify. The library must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed a population of 25,000. The prize monies must be used only for the benefit of the rural or community population under 25,000. Similarly a single community with a population greater than 25,000, which also provide library service to an adjoining community of 25,000 or less population by contract, may also be eligible, provided the prize is used entirely to support the smaller community.

5) A single community library serving a population greater than 25,000 and not providing service to a rural area or to a rural community is not eligible for the award.

6) Previous finalists are eligible. Previous winners are not eligible.

Send the nomination, postmarked deadline November 3, 2008, to:

Library Journal's Award for the Best Small Library in America
c/o Ann Kim, Library Journal
360 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010

If you have any questions regarding the submission process, please contact Rebecca Miller at miller@reedbusiness.com or by phone at 646-746-6725.

Literacy

—continued from page 4

The good news is that children who attend quality preschool programs are less likely to require expensive, remedial education programs, and, later on, children will be less likely to have low test scores, the need to repeat grades or drop out, and are less likely to require costly welfare or imprisonment, (*The Los Angeles Times* and *Every Person a Reader* by Stephen D. Krashen).

The bad news is that for the first time in American history cities are spending more on law enforcement than on education, (*Trading Textbooks for Prison Cells* by William J. Chambliss). This means that your local library's funding is competing with funding for law enforcement and prison funding. This means that the children who need the preschool programs and summer reading programs and their parents who need adult education are not receiving the assistance that will help them to KEEP UP AND KEEP OUT.

In August, West Virginia libraries received the 2008 Literacy poster, KEEP UP AND KEEP OUT. Have you displayed this bright, eye-catching poster in a prominent area in your library, classroom, or office yet? Please do so. Help your friends, family and community members to KEEP UP AND KEEP OUT.

For additional information on literacy, please contact Susan Hayden, haydens@wvlc.lib.wv.us or call 304-558-3978, ext. 2014.

Consider the following scenario: You are swamped with the day-to-day running of the library: ordering books, cataloging, programs, and staff issues. However, your local elected officials, county commissioners, school boards, mayors, to say nothing of your Board are asking for statistics about your library that are not readily available, like what was the percentage of your budget allocated to library material in the 1990s?

You are doing a presentation to the Rotary and want to show the growth in circulation for 10 years. You want to write a grant and need to know the number of children attending your programs over the years.

Do you really want to do the research, compile the statistics, put them in an Excel spreadsheet or would you rather

have someone else do this? For those of us who consider compiling, analyzing and reporting statistics to be the last bastion of a very troubled mind, we have someone to call: Steve Fesenmaier.

If you've reported it on Bibliostat or the annual report, he can retrieve it and compare those numbers to other libraries in WV of the same size, i.e. number of branches, to other libraries with the same funding makeup, e.g. those with special laws or other libraries with similar service areas.

At the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Libraries, the circulation numbers and the expenditures for personnel costs compared to the other libraries with special laws was needed for a report to our funding sources.

Steve was able to provide this data to me within a few hours; other statistics are provided with a few days.

If you run into a statistical pinch, call Steve Fesenmaier at the WVLC. He is more than willing to help use statistics to prove your worth.

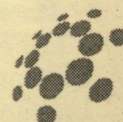
PALINET 2008**Conference + Vendor Fair****"Wide Open: Your Library, Their Way"****Keynote Address by Roy Tennant**

Join us on **October 27th & 28th in Philadelphia, PA** to explore open source innovations, digitization technologies and the modularity of solutions. Meet with PALINET business partners and see cutting edge library products and innovations. Don't miss out!

For Conference Information Visit:

www.palinet.org/2008conference

3000 Market Street
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Philadelphia, PA 19104-2801
800.233.3401 / www.palinet.org



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Greenbrier County Public Library Celebrates First Year in New Home

Patrons, trustees, staff and friends gathered at the Greenbrier County Public Library in Lewisburg on Sunday, July 18, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of the new 12,600-square-foot facility at 152 Robert W. McCormick Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

There were many reasons to celebrate. Greenbrier County author Belinda Anderson delayed publication of her newest collection of short stories, "Buckle Up, Buttercup," so that it could have its premiere at the event. A cast of community actors delighted the audience of 130 with dramatic readings of two stories from the collection.

David Nalker, president of the library's Board of Trustees presided over a short ceremony during which he announced that the Great Expectations Capital Campaign, which was launched in 2005 to raise \$3.1 million for construction and furnishing the building, was coming to a successful conclusion and that the project was debt free. About half of the money came from public sources, with the remainder coming from individuals, foundations and businesses.

The two-story brick library sits atop a hill on the campus of New River Community and Technical College overlooking the Lewisburg historic district. It officially opened on July 29, 2007. At the opening ceremony, West



Virginia Library Commissioner J.D. Waggoner introduced WV Secretary of Education and the Arts Kay Goodwin, who presented the keynote address.

The beautiful new library is a testament to the tireless efforts of former board president Robert W. McCormick. His vision and determination were the driving force behind the project, which took more than a decade from inception to completion. McCormick died of cancer shortly before the building was completed, and the street leading up to the new library was officially dedicated Robert W. McCormick Drive in his honor and memory.

The new facility replaced a 2,500-square-foot historic structure that had housed the library since the 1940s. The building was designed by Kreps and Zachwieja of Charleston to blend seamlessly into the historic district. The contractor was Multiplex of Summersville. Ground was broken for the project in December, 2005, and construction began in January 2006. The project was completed on time and within the \$3.1 million budget for construction and furnishings.

The building is owned by the City of Lewisburg, which pay utilities and insurance and maintains the grounds. In her annual report to the City Council in July of this year, Library Director Ann Farr reported that as had been predicted, the

expanded space had resulted in a dramatic increase in library usage. Attendance was up from 38,996 in 2007 to 49,280 in 2008. Participation in children's programs jumped from 758 to 1,146. The most dramatic increase was in internet usage. With more than twice as many public access computers available, usage went from 5,734 to 16,189.

One of the most popular features of the new building is the lower level multi-purpose room that is available to rent for meetings, receptions and other events. More than 2,000 people have attended events in the space since the library opened.

Director Ann Farr said "This library is the result of a great deal of hard work and years of dedication from all aspects of our community.

Although "WOW" is the reaction of many of our patrons when they first enter the new building, the most memorable comment was that this library is "taxpayer's money well spent!"

When was the last time you heard that about any project or undertaking?

INFORMATION COMMONS AT WEST LIBERTY'S ELBIN LIBRARY

by Ted Nesbitt

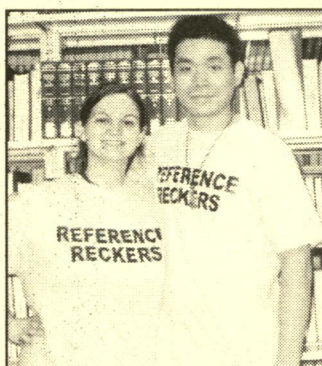
The Paul N. Elbin Library at West Liberty State College was dedicated in 1970. The 40,000 square foot building was "state of the art" – for 1970. Electrical outlets for typewriters [Smith-Coronas and Brothers, for examples] were everywhere. Massive banks of periodical index tables and shelves of bound periodicals consumed the north end of the first floor. The multi-drawer card catalog occupied a large area at the south end of that floor. Carrels and small "study booths" for students who wanted privacy ringed the perimeter of both floors. There was a listening room for the thousands of LP recordings.

The architects of the 1970 building could not have envisioned the revolution that would be created by digitization and the internet. In order to accommodate the changing needs and study habits of students, the library staff had to adjust and, consequently, they began transforming the building. Over the years, CD-ROM databases came and went. Microform cabinets and reader/printing machines were added. "Dumb terminals" provided access to the card catalog. Eventually, those terminals disappeared.

Constant and frequent changes were made during the 1990s in order to keep up with the new technologies. The library converted the LP listening room to a classroom for library instruction and other uses. Faculty and students could reserve the Library Instruction Center for presentations requiring special equipment, including a computer, projector, sound system, and a Smart Board. Professors gave "group" assignments, but the library



Periodical Lounge



West Liberty Students and Workers: Becky Heise and DeXiong Zheng.

provided only "individual" study areas. Some professors preferred the attractiveness of the library over the blandness of their classrooms. The library changed, adapting to the new requests when it was physically and fiscally capable of doing so. Professors with their classes and various student groups enjoyed the comfort of the large conference room and an attractive seminar room.

From the original days, telephone cables and electrical wires entered the building at a very secure "closet," called "the mechanical room." Ethernet, for the computers that were gradually added, come through the same closet.

This summer, the closet got a new name – "point of presence."



Information Commons: SW view.

With \$10,000 worth of fiber optics, "mechanical room" just did not seem appropriate. New switches and more powerful wireless strength, along with ten more computers, a fourth printer, and teleconferencing equipment added to the enhancement of the library's technological capabilities. Information Technology Services, of which the library is a part, provided much of the financial and labor support for the project.

Making way for the "Information Commons" involved every member of the library staff and several student workers. Librarians weeded and students discarded about 5,000 volumes from the reference collection and approximately 40 percent of the periodical collec-

tion. The staff disassembled shelving and removed many microform cabinets, creating "free and open space" that amounts to about one-third of the first floor.

Created by the art department, new multi-colored signage on walls and columns showcases various areas in the library. Works from several campus artists lend a "gallery touch" to the very modern atmosphere.

In addition to the thirty-two hard-wired computers, including four MACs with added graphic design programs, there are ten movable tables, with chairs, for laptops.

The students who prefer lounging while laptoping, have three separate lounge areas on the first floor and additional lounges on the second floor.

Because the conference and seminar rooms on the second floor are constantly in use, two new student group study rooms were constructed, each capable of containing groups or classes of about students. An office was converted into a smaller study room for six students.

Times have changed in the last four decades. The Paul N. Elbin Library at West Liberty State College retains its "outward" appearance. The inside, however, is very 21st century. And, the conversion – the "revolution" – is the result of the staff's efforts to make the library a welcome place for the students, faculty, and the rest of the campus community. The library's unofficial motto is "Where good students get better!"

Young Writers Group: more than just writing!

by Erin K. Mumma

What is writing? Why would one choose to engage in it? What are the different avenues one can take as a writer? Writing is an analysis, an observation and a record of ones' observations. What is it that we observe and record? In a nutshell, OUR LIVES. Interesting? Perhaps. Exciting? Not to a kid.

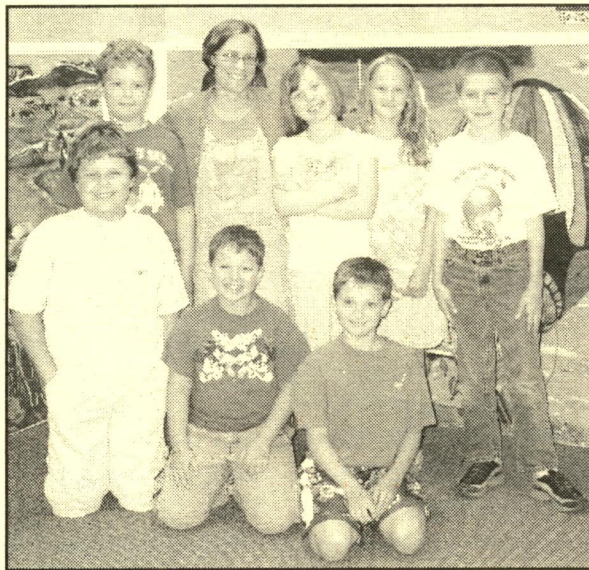
From day one, I have told my writers to observe their lives, their surroundings as fuel for their writing:

From seven to eighteen or anywhere in between, you may think life is boring, and the library is very boring; however, writing about everyday events, including going into the closet and eating worms () (and the library for that matter) need not be boring.

In my groups, we explore writing and all its crevices, hidden passages, lofty escarpments, dark depths, a quirky angles. We've been through short stories, poems, essays (objective and personal), book reviews, discussing such topics as fine art, good fortune, and what we dream. We have even had the wonderful opportunity to meet and work with a practicing young adult author, and compile and print a collection of our work. All this (and more!) in just under 8 months.



Young Writers Groups



The Empty Inkwells, ages 7 to 11

Young Writers Group: more than just writing! Often in my groups, we do more talking than writing. I believe the sharing of ideas and thoughts is a powerful tool of inspiration. Young writers should not only observe and record, but also analyze and understand the topics they choose to inscribe. Observe! Analyze! Record!

Recently, the group chose a book by a favorite author. In discussion that followed, the

group observed, made choices, pinned down the specimen, and began dissecting. Through this dissection process, the group discovered why they relate to specific authors.

Members of Young Writers Groups should be encouraged to be more than writers---to stretch horizons and tie in other endeavors! To live and write deeply involves one's talents in everything from writing and working to eating and speaking

and breathing.

Our current project, combining images and words, will continue expanding horizons and increasing awareness of the world at large. This will be displayed in late fall 2008.

Aside from the importance of gently exposing the talents of young ones, the second notable feature of the Young Writers Group is, indeed, the writers themselves. When one thinks of a children's library, some images that whirl round your head are story times, craft time, lovingly chewed board books, puppet shows and puzzles. My question to children ages 7-18 is: "Do any of these things appeal to you?" Perhaps, but not likely.

With my writing groups, I attack the difficult task of attracting children of these ages, especially teens, to the library. This approach has worked with flying colors.

Seeing teens in the library (and off the computers) of their own accord and enjoying themselves brings a special joy to my heart. I am blessed to be able to do this for the community of Martinsburg.

If you are interested in starting a Young Writer's Group at your library, please contact Erin K. Mumma at Martinsburg Public Library, 304-267-8933 for more information email: emumma@mail.nln.lib.wv.us

New Films, Web Movies and Audio Books on WV and Appalachia 2008

by Steve Fesenmaier

About access: The biggest problem for WV libraries ordering independent videos, audio books, and other items is finding a vendor that sells them. All of the filmmakers directly sell their films. The following sources sell some of the new items –

1. Appalachian Book Company, formerly Frog Creek Books - Mike Sublette has changed his used book store into a leading source of WV/Appalachian items, particularly videos, audio books, and music. He sells more films by WV's filmmakers than any other organization. Visit his website at - <http://www.frogcreekbookswv.com/>. Farmers Market, Charleston.

2. WV Book Company - The largest distributor of books by WV's authors. DVDs include - "October Sky," "Coal Camp Memories," "Ashes to Glory," "Matewan" and "The Appalachians." <http://www.wvbookco.com/> Charleston.

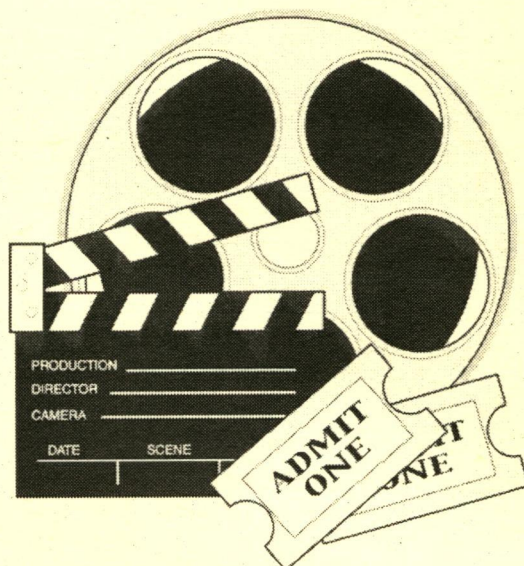
3. MountainMade - They sell several videos produced by the Augusta Heritage Center, "The Appalachians" and B.J. Gudmundsson's "Out of the Storm." <http://stores.homestead.com/MMade/StoreFront.bok>. Thomas.

4. Tamarack Center - This center is best-known for selling WV products. They also sell WV books and films. Only a few are shown on-line - they actually sell many more. Visit their website or call them directly. <http://www.tamarackwv.com/catalog/category/category,150.aspx>. Beckley.

5. WVPBS has created many great films during the last 30 years. They now sell Luis Argeo's 2007 film, "AsturianUS," about people from northern Spain to Harrison County, WV. Contact - Debbie Oleksa, West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Morgan-

town, 1- 888-596-9729.
Cell phone - 304-685-8025.

30 DAYS - WORKING IN A COAL MINE
2008 55 mins. FX Cable



West Virginia native son and famous filmmaker Morgan Spurlock stars in the opening episode of his FX Cable series, "30 Days" that premiered on June 3, 2008. He returned to Southern West Virginia where he stayed with an underground mine supervisor, working the regular day shift for 30 days as a "red hat." He also takes a little time to socialize with the miners and their families, and briefly explores the problems of mountaintop removal mining and the destruction of both the environment and the coal miners' health. Morgan goes to Bolt, West Virginia and lives with Dale and Sandy Lusk. Dale, the supervisor of the mine where Morgan works, has mined coal for 35 years and introduces Morgan to a miner's way of life. Morgan gains an understanding of the financial

benefits that draw people to coal mining, but also learns, first hand, the dangerous conditions that miners must face every day.

As a new miner, Morgan is assigned much of the grunt work, including plastering, building wooden roof supports, shoveling coal and hauling heavy equipment. On his days off, Morgan leaves the mine to examine some of the bigger issues surrounding the coal industry. He meets with Peggy Cohen, 36, the daughter of a miner killed in 2006 in a Sago, West Virginia mine explosion. Morgan also talks to both coal industry executives and environmentalists about surface mining and mountain-top removal to gain perspective on the pros and cons of an industry that provides the U.S. with the raw materials for 50% of our electricity.

From FX website - <http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/30days/episodeguide.php>

Season One and Season Two of 30 Days was released June 2008.

BACK TO THE BOTTLE, 2008 25 mins. Laughing Cat Films

West Virginia filmmaker Francesca Karle made the national news for her first film about the homeless in Huntington, "On the River's Edge." She made the film in high school as a Girl Scout project. Now as a sophomore at Marshall University, she has returned to the streets of Huntington to make a film about alcoholism. Using the life of one of the street people she portrayed in "River," he tells his own story on how he became addicted to alcohol. Several local experts on the disease are interviewed. Filmed at Ritter Park, St. Mary's

—continued on page 10

New Films —continued from page 9

Medical Center, Heritage Farm Museum and Village and Sharkey's. Jamie Lee Curtis and Clint Howard, two Hollywood actors, also appear. Access: karle2@marshall.edu

BURNING THE FUTURE: COAL IN AMERICA, 2008 89 min. American Coal Productions

Burning the Future: Coal in America is the story of an ancient rock that transformed a nation, using America's thirst for cheap energy to frame today's battle between the down-trodden residents of the coalfields of West Virginia and the industry that dominates a region and influences politics at the highest levels of government. It explodes with shocking images of the havoc wreaked on people. And it makes a heartfelt plea to the consumer to stand up and pay attention to the hidden costs of our cheap electricity. Access: <http://www.burningthefuture.org/>

CHARLESTON THE OPERA 2008 90 mins. Squonk Opera

As part of Charleston's annual arts festival, "FestivALL," Squonk Opera of Pittsburgh was commissioned to produce a portrait of the city. David Wohl of WV SU hired local filmmakers to interview local people, mixing the footage with more artistic footage of the city's monuments and spaces. Three local dance groups performed their own choreography on stage and students from Piedmont Elementary colored "imagination maps" of the city which were then animated into a video sequence. This art event was NOT a film but rather a performance art piece with about 20 minutes of film footage used in the multi-media event. The world premiere took place at The WV Cultural Center on June 21, 2008. Website - <http://www.festivallcharleston.com/> Access: None for the film. Music used in the event is available at the Squonk Opera website <http://www.squonkopera.org/store.html>. The

title is "You Are Here."

KEN HECHLER - IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE, 2008 120 mins. Marshall University Libraries

Barbara Winters, dean of Marshall University Libraries, Russ Barbour and Chip Hitchcock, well-known WVPBS filmmakers worked for several years producing the first official documentary about one of the Mountain State's most influential citizens. As a Congressman and WV Secretary of State, professor/teacher, author, and environmental activist, Hechler changed the face of WV and national politics from 1958 when he was first elected to Congress. Interviews with many celebrities including George McGovern and Robert Dole show how devoted Hechler was to helping the common citizens of the state and country. Official Ken Hechler website - www.kenhechler.us. Access: A copy will be given to each public library in West Virginia. To purchase a DVD - Marshall University Libraries. wintersb@marshall.edu

THE LAST GHOST OF WAR 2008 57 mins. Gardner Documentary Group

This film is about the long-term effects of Agent Orange - on the people of Nitro, WV who produced the chemical; the American and Vietnamese soldiers who directly had contact with the chemical; and, the civilian population of Vietnam who also have had long-term contact with the chemical - as they still do. Many are plaintiffs in a class action suit against 32 US chemical companies. Attorneys, activists, scientists, and military experts present the latest information on the on-going disaster of the Viet Nam War 30 years after it ended. Greg Harpold, a South Charleston filmmaker, filmed local scenes and people. Narrated by Kevin Kline. Promoted by the War Legacies Project - [\[cies.org/AgentOrange.htm\]\(http://cies.org/AgentOrange.htm\). Access: \[www.gardnerdocgroup.com\]\(http://www.gardnerdocgroup.com\)](http://www.warlega-</p>
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MONONGAH REMEMBERED 2008 30 mins. Peter Argentine Productions Inc.

Pittsburgh filmmaker Peter Argentine directed this film about the greatest loss of life as the result of a coal mine disaster in American history. On December 6, 1907, the Monongah Mine Disaster took place in the small Harrison County town outside Fairmont. He includes information about a visit by two Italian delegations from two regions in Italy, Calabria and Molise, where many of the miners who were killed grew up. Argentine is trying to raise funds to expand the film to an hour. If you are interested, visit his website at - www.arginetproductions.com.

Website for the film - <http://www.monongahmovie.com/> Access for DVD: Website.

A MOVING MONUMENT - THE WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL 2008 55 mins. MotionMasters

Diana Sole, producer/director of several previous films about Rev. Leon Sullivan, Senator Robert C. Byrd, and Supreme Court Justice John Marshall, created this portrait of West Virginia's state capitol building, designed by Cass Gilbert. The state capitol of West Virginia literally floated down the Ohio River from Wheeling to Charleston, moving back and forth several times. This film celebrates the 75th anniversary of the building that was completed in 1932 at the height of The Great Depression. Access: all public libraries in the state have a DVD copy.

PADDLES OF THE PAST, 2008 25 mins. West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Association

Launched in 1968 through the vision of the Dragan family, WV rafting outfitters operating on the New River Gorge National River and the Gauley River National Recreation Area celebrated 40 years of commercial whitewater rafting this year. More than 3 million very wet visitors have traveled to West Virginia for this adventure.

At an industry reunion that took place on Friday, June 27, the premiere of the industry's first documentary film, "Paddles of the Past," chronicling the last past 40 years took place at the Historic Fayette Theater. Website for white water industry - <http://www.americasbestwhitewater.com/media-room.cfm>.

Access - West Virginia Professional River Runners Association, 304.574.2343, wvpro@westvirginia.com

RISE UP! WEST VIRGINIA

75 mins. 2008 Patchwork Films

B.J. Gudmundsson goes on a personal journey from her birth-place in Pocahontas County to the southern coalfields. There she joins the Mountain Keepers who have been fighting a 20 year battle to save their land and homes from the destructive practices of coal mining and especially mountaintop removal mining.

People interviewed include Jean and Jim Foster of Bob White, Mary Miller and Pauline Canterbury of Sylvester, Debbie Jarrell and Ed Wiles of Rock Creek, Maria Gunnoe of Bob White, Larry Gibson of Kayford Mtn, Julian Martin of Charleston, George Daugherty of Elkview, and Robert Gates of Charleston.

Music by Agust Gudmundsson, T. Paige Dalporto, Atherine Spurline, Jim Savarino, George Daugherty, Buddy Griffin, James Reams & The Barnstormers, Mindy Michael, Missing Persons Soup Kitchen Gospel Quartet and Higher Ground. Access: www.patchworkfilms.com

THE SECOND AMENDMENT - A GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM, 2008

25 mins. Courtland Media

West Virginia filmmaker Ashley Stinnett directed this documentary about the Second Amendment. West Virginia political leaders, both Republican and Democratic, are interviewed. Other people in the media, medicine, and other areas who support an expanded attitude toward the Second Amendment are also interviewed. The importance of teaching one's children how to hunt safely is emphasized. No one who supports the Brady Bill or other measures to control fire arms is interviewed. The recent events at Virginia Tech are briefly discussed. Access: Ashley Stinnett at oursecondamendment@gmail.com. : P.O. Box 654, Lavalette, WV 25535 304-544-6740

THEM THAT WORK - How Matewan Inspired a State, 2008 Pewter Productions

Jason Brown, a West Virginia filmmaker now living and teaching at UNC Greensboro, decided to make a documentary about the making and importance of John Sayles' 1987 labor epic, "Matewan." He interviewed Sayles and some of the stars of the film including Chris Cooper, a recent Oscar winner, and David Strathairn, nominated for his role in "Good Night and Good Luck" as Edward R. Morrow. He also visited the annual reenactment held every May in the actual town of Matewan, and talked to many people whose lives were influence either by helping make the film or afterwards. Access - this film is still not completed as of 7.10.08.

WIDEN FILM PROJECT

2008 55 mins. Killer Productions

Charleston filmmaker Kelley Thompson was hired in 2006 by the Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone to interview residents of Clay County, WV filming their memories. He found

that many recalled life in Widen, the famous company town built by J.G. Bradley who was a national and state coal mining leader. He also learned about the 1952 U.M.W.A. strike at Widen. He interviewed William C. Blizzard, son of the union leader Bill Blizzard, Gordon Simmons, president of the WV Labor History Assn. and others about the strike. (Julia Baker wrote "Up Molasses Mountain" based on her father's memories of the time.) The film covers other areas including the Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad, and sports history with legendary coach Bobby Stover. The world premiere of the film took place at The South Charleston Museum May 10 @ 7 PM co-sponsored by SCM and the WV Labor History Association. Access - Kelley Thompson, killer64@suddenlink.net, 304-344-1990 (home)

General Websites:

Steve's AppLit website listing hundreds of films on WV/Appalachia - <http://www.wvla.org/springfling/index.html>

Steve's Charleston Gazette Gazz - WV Film - website - <http://www.thegazz.com/gblogs/wvfilm/>

Steve's list of films on mountaintop removal mining at OVEC - http://www.ohvec.org/links/mountaintop_removal/documentaries.html

West Virginia Filmmakers Film Festival - <http://www.landmarkstudio.org/wvfff/index.html>

West Virginia Film Series at the South Charleston Museum - http://www.geocities.com/scmuseum/WV_Film_Series.html

WV Film Office - <http://www.wvtourism.com/spec.aspx?pgid=22>

West Virginia Book Festival

October 11 & 12

The eighth annual West Virginia Book Festival will be held October 11 and 12 at the Charleston Civic Center. Festival planners announce that dozens of authors will attend the festival to present programs or readings. Among them are bestselling authors Richard Paul Evans and Julia Spencer-Fleming, children's book illustrator Chris Soentpiet and Marvel comic book illustrator Bob McLeod.

When Richard Paul Evans wrote the #1 best-seller, **The Christmas Box**, he never intended on becoming an internationally known author. His quiet story of parental love and the true meaning of Christmas made history when it became simultaneously the #1 hard-cover and paperback book in the nation. Since then, more than eight

million copies of **The Christmas Box** have been printed, and Evans has written 12

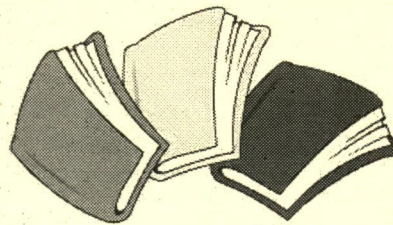
consecutive New York Times bestsellers. His latest title is **Grace**. Four of Evans' books have been produced into major television productions starring such acclaimed

ard Thomas, Ellen Burstyn, Naomi Watts, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Lloyd and Rob Lowe. Evans lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, Keri, and their five children.

Julia Spencer-Fleming studied acting and history at Ithaca College and received her J.D. at the University of Maine School of Law. Her debut novel, **In The Bleak Midwinter**, won St. Martin's Best First Traditional Mystery Award in 2001, thereby launching her Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne series. The latest title in the series is **I Shall Not Want**. Originally from upstate New York, she now lives in a 180-year-old farmhouse in Buxton, Maine, with her husband and three children.

Award-winning illustrator, Chris Soentpiet (SOON-peet) is the recipient of the Parents' Magazine Best Book of the

West Virginia Book Festival™



The Marketplace

actors as Maureen O'Hara, James Earl Jones, Rich-

—continued on page 13

Festival

—continued from page 12

Year for Something

Beautiful, and the recipient of the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for his illustrations in **My Brother Martin**. His latest title is *Brothers*. A Korean-born adoptee, Soentpiet's multicultural background and experiences are reflected in his choice of distinct cultural and historical settings for his books.

Bob McLeod is best known for co-creating and illustrating **The New Mutants for Marvel Comics**. He began his career in 1974 working on Marvel Comics' now-

inking movie and TV satires and the Teen Hulk humor



Richard Paul Evans

published by HarperCollins, which received two starred reviews. He is currently the editor of **Tomorrows' Rough Stuff** magazine.

Additional authors and poets include: Jennifer Bradbury, Terry Lively, J. Davitt McAteer, Irene McKinney, Ann Pancake, Barbara Pleasant, Anna Egan Smucker, Patricia Spangler, Cheryl Ware and several others. Check the festival website at www.wvbookfestival.org for additional information.

The West Virginia Book Festival is presented by West Virginia Humanities Council, Kanawha County Public Library system, The Library Foun-



Bob McLeod

defunct *Crazy* magazine, penciling and

strip. He then quickly became a top inker on such titles as **The Black Panther**, **Conan the Barbarian** and **The Incredible Hulk** for Marvel, and **The Legion of Superheroes**, **The New Titans**, and **Batman** in Detective Comics, and Wonder Woman for DC, along with countless covers for both companies. He also penciled several issues of Marvel's **Star Wars**, and did pencils and inks on **Spider-Man**, **Venom**, and **Superman** in Action Comics, and The Phantom. In 2006, Bob wrote and illustrated a children's book, *Superhero ABC*,



Chris Soentpiet

dation of Kanawha County, The Charleston Gazette and Charleston Daily Mail.

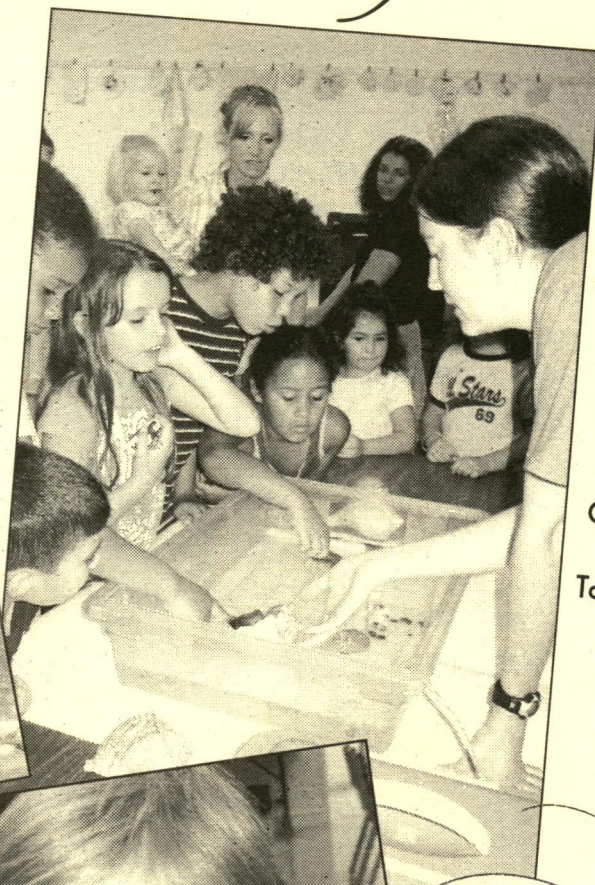
Summer Reading



Talons!

talonslibraryofpretp.com

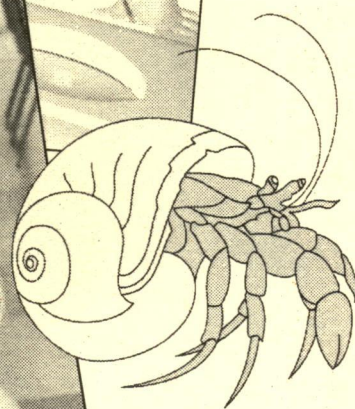
Raptors rule
Martinsburg



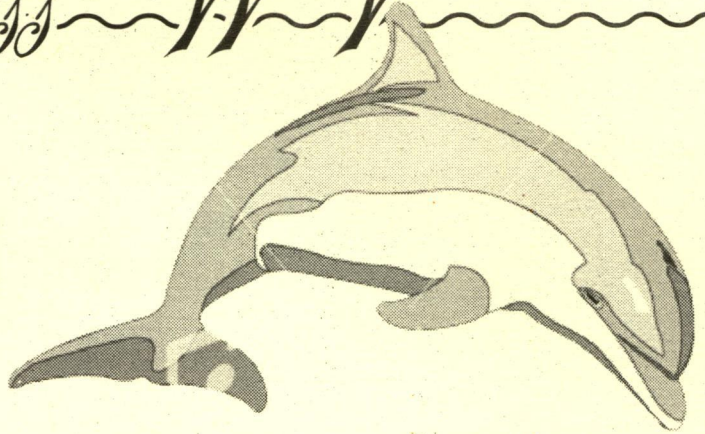
Oceans in
Motion
Touch Tank



Gwen displays her trading card



Across WV

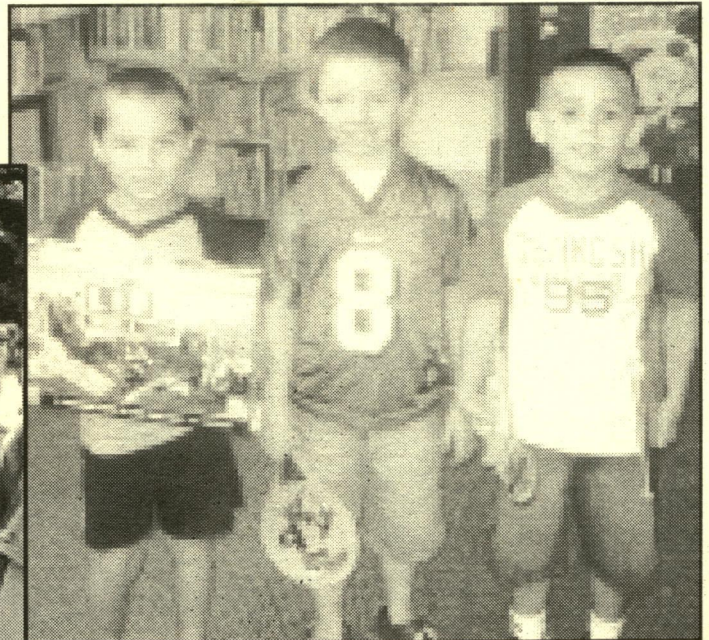


At
Martinsburg:
Sense of Wonder
Room offers
Hands-On
Nature

Alum Creek Summer Reading Program Events



Llamas visit Alum Creek



Catch the Reading Bug pays off at Alum Creek.

Events

SEPTEMBER

International Literacy Month

27-Oct. 4 Banned Books Week (<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>)

OCTOBER

National Book Month

(<http://www.nationalbook.org/nbmcelebrate.html>)

1-3 Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV (Featuring Adriana Trigiani)

1-4 Kentucky Library Association and SELA Conference, Louisville, KY

11-12 WV Book Festival (www.wvhumanities.org/) Charleston, WV

14-20 Teen Read Week, Theme: Books with Bite

www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenreading.html

15 Deadline for November publication

NOVEMBER

7-12 Young Adult Literature Symposium Nashville, TN

9-12 Pennsylvania Library Association Valley Forge

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

DECEMBER

3-5 WVLA Annual Conference Greenbrier Hotel and Resort, Lewisburg, WV

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

A note from the editor

West Virginia Libraries

welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3-1/2 disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

December 15 for January issue

February 15 for March issue

April 15 for May issue

June 15 for July issue

August 15 for September issue

October 15 for November issue

WVLA Membership Information

To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

Sarah Cranstoun, WVLA 2nd Vice President
Summersville Public Library
6201 Webster Road • Summersville, WV 26651
304-872-0844



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